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Memorial of the general assembly of the State of Tennessee, praying remuneration for the losses sustained by the volunteers of that state, in equipping themselves for the service of the United States during the year 1836.

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MEMORIAL

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,

Praying Remuneration for the Losses sustained by the Volunteers of that State, in equipping themselves for the service of the United States during the year 1836.

JANUARY 9, 1837.

Referred to Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee to the Congress of the United States :

Your memorialists would respectfully represent that, during the present, year three several calls have been made upon the citizens of Tennessee, by the proclamation of their Governor, to enter into the service of the United States as volunteers. The first and third of these calls were made under requisitions of Major General Edmund P. Gaines, and the second by that of the Secretary of War. Under every call more than twice the number actually required promptly enrolled, organized, and prepared themselves for the service. For the circumstances under which the several proclamations were issued, the number of their patriotic citizens who volunteered under them, and the manner in which they were disappointed and unexpectedly rejected, your memorialists would refer to the several communications made by Governor Cannon to them during their present session, with the accompanying documents, herewith transmitted. The message of the 8th October exhibits the numbers that volunteered, organized, and reported, under the different calls. But many of the companies reported under every proclamation, and are, therefore, thrice counted. There were, however, a number of companies made up, but failed to report themselves to the Executive, on account of understanding that the requisitions were filled, who incurred heavy expenses in equipping for the service. This class is not enumerated in the message, but is, in the opinion of your memorialists, entitled to the favorable consideration of Congress. It will be seen that many of the companies reported were mustered into service and immediately discharged; others were retained a short time in the service, and then ordered home or discharged.

Your memorialists would further represent that the said volunteers incurred considerable losses both of time and of money, and made many sacrifices in preparing and qualifying themselves for the efficient service of their country. Many of them gave up their crops, others lost their

employments, others again entered into heavy responsibilities for those who were unable to supply themselves with horses, equipage, &c., and all have sustained considerable damage. Though there is no existing law of Congress providing for such cases, yet your memorialists will not allow themselves to doubt that Congress will, without hesitation, make special provision for the ample reward of such patriotic devotion to our common country, and such almost unexampled readiness to meet the dangers of war and climate at the call of their Government, which has been in this instance evinced by our fellow-citizens. It need not be suggested to a Congress of the United States, that not only justice and equity, but the highest considerations of public policy, require that the spirit of patriotism which has been so signally displayed by the volunteers on this occasion should be fostered and encouraged. It would, also, be unnecessary to remind you, that Tennesseans have never been backward in encountering perils and braving every danger when required by their country. It will be seen, in this instance, that they were ready, nay, eager, to exchange the quiet and comforts of home for the dangers and hardships of the campaign; to quit their own salubrious climate, where they were blessed with health and peace and plenty, and encounter all the hazards of throwing themselves upon a Southern or Western frontier, in that season of the year too, when disease assumes its most malignant forms. It will also be remembered that there was nothing selfish in this movement, for they were not in any instance threatened by danger within their own borders, but it was to rescue their countrymen at a distance from the horrors of an Indian war, that they were so ready to sacrifice their means, desert their homes, and shed their best blood if necessary.

They would also bring to your view and consideration the disbursements made by the Executive of their State, out of his own means, in defraying the necessary expenses of organizing and marching said troops in some instances, for in other and many cases they defrayed their own expenses. The Executive staff were also engaged for a considerable time in their respective duties, and are entitled to compensation. But, for a full understanding of the extent and nature of their advancement and services, reference is here made to the message of the Governor on that subject.

Your memorialists consider it only necessary to bring the cases of their volunteer constituents to your consideration. They ask nothing at their hands but a just and equitable remuneration for actual losses and sacrifices incurred in proposing to serve their country, under a reasonable expectation that they would be received; and that their services were required. Any method that the wisdom and justice of Congress may devise to answer this end, either by a certain number of months' extra *per diem* and commutation pay, or otherwise, will be satisfactory to them. They ask nothing in the name of bounty, and would accept no gratuity, but only demand a fair recompense for expenses and losses. This they feel assured the Congress of the United States will not deny them. They, therefore, submit the case with full confidence to the consideration of your honorable body.

EPHRAIM H. FOSTER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JONATHAN WEBSTER,

Speaker of the Senate.

Adopted 25th October, 1836.